

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 DRC-01 DOTE-00 MC-02

AID-20 TRSE-00 SS-20 NSC-10 OMB-01 /096 W

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R 211220Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4573

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 8228

DEPT PASS FAA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN: IR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: IRANIAN REQUEST FOR ANTI-HIJACKING
INFORMATION/TRAINING

REF: A-1288, FEBRUARY 12, 1973

1. THROUGH ARMISH-MAAG ADVISOR TO J/2 EMBASSY HAS BEEN APPROACHED FOR ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE BY IRANIAN ARMY LT. COL. BAFEKR, WHO ON DETAIL TO IRAN AIR AND CHARGED WITH SETTING UP PROGRAM TO COUNTER AERIAL HI-JACKINGS.

2. AS EXPLAINED BY BAFEKR, HE IN CHARGE OF RECENTLY FORMED UNIT CONSISTING OF ONE MAJOR AND 28 ENLISTED MEN, WHO DETAILED FOR COVER PURPOSES TO VARIOUS NON-SECURITY JOBS AT MEHRABAD AIRPORT. THEIR REAL FUNCTION HOWEVER IS TO COUNTER ATTEMPTED HI-JACKINGS. (BAFEKR'S GROUP IS NOT CONCERNED WITH NORMAL AIRPORT SECURITY NOR WITH PRE-FLIGHT SCREENING OF PASSENGERS, BAGGAGE, ETC., ALL OF WHICH REMAIN FUNCTION OF AIRPORT POLICE). IRAN AIR DOES HAVE "SKY MARSHALS" WHO ALSO PART OF AIRPORT POLICE. ENLISTED MEN HAVE RECEIVED JUDO/KARATE TRAINING, SOME WEAPONS TRAINING AND SOME, IF NOT ALL, ARE QUALIFIED JUMPERS. THEY HAVE ALSO RECEIVED LECTURES ON DEMOLITIONS

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BUT HAVE HAD NO PRACTICAL WORK IN THAT AREA.

3. COL. BAFEKR INTERESTED IN FOLLOWING:

- A. WEAPONS--ON PRIORITY BASIS ADVICE AS TO WHAT WEAPONS TO PURCHASE FOR BOTH SHARPSHOOTING AND FOR CLOSE COMBAT; TRAINING IN BOTH TYPES; INFORMATION ON INFRA-RED SCOPE FOR NIGHT FIRING; ADVICE ON PURCHASE OF BULLET-PROOF CLOTHING OR SHIELDS.
- B. DEMOLITIONS: ADVICE ON KINDS OF EXPLOSIVES LIKELY TO BE USED AND TRAINING IN DEFUSING.
- C. COMMO: ADVICE ON COMMUNICATIONS MEANS BETWEEN AIRPORT TOWER/AIRCRAFT/AND SECURITY MEN ON GROUND; SUGGESTIONS FOR EQUIPMENT THEY SHOULD PROCURE.
- D. CASE STUDY TRAINING IN INCIDENTS KNOWN TO FAA TO HELP IRANIANS DRAW UP OWN PLANS.

4. EMBOFF OUTLINED US GOVT INTEREST IN ASSISTING IN THIS PROBLEM AND SAID WOULD OBTAIN SPECIFIC TRAINING SUGGESTIONS FROM DEPT AND FAA. IRANIANS REQUESTED THEY BE ADVISED TYPE AND CONTENT OF ANY SUGGESTED COURSES, LENGTH OF TIME, COST AND QUALIFICATIONS (INCLUDING LANGUAGE ABILITY). THEY PARTICULARLY INTERESTED ON PRIORITY BASIS IN SUGGESTIONS RE WEAPONS PURCHASES.

5. REQUEST DEPT DISCUSS WITH FAA, IN LIGHT OF REFERENCED TRAINING PROPOSALS, AND ADVISE EMBASSY SPECIFIC TRAINING SUGGESTIONS INCLUDING APPROPRIATE COURSES IN US OR POSSIBILITY OF SENDING TRAINERS HERE. COL BAFEKR EMPHASIZED HIS INTEREST IN CASE STUDY APPROACH TO HELP HIM IN DRAWING UP IRANIAN PLANS. ON BASIS DISCUSSION TO DATE, BELIEVE IRANIAN GOVT PREPARED PAY ANY COSTS.
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